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Kentucky Ag News Headlines

Corn, Soy Planting Continues Trails Last Year, Despite Good Weather

Kentucky Ag Connection - 05/13/2008

Normal temperatures and below normal rainfall prevailed across the Commonwealth this past week, reports the state field office of USDA's National Ag Statistics Service. Temperatures for the week averaged 62 degrees across the State which was normal for the week. Total precipitation for the week was 0.97 inches statewide, which was 0.06 inches below normal.

Topsoil moisture was rated as 7 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 29 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 22 percent surplus. There were 3.6 days suitable for fieldwork. The primary farming activities for the week were planting corn and soybeans, applying fertilizer, preparing soil for planting, setting tobacco and spraying weeds.

As of Sunday, 7 percent of the burley tobacco plants have been set compared with 17 percent last year and the five-year average of 9 percent. Six percent of the dark tobacco has been set, behind of last's year's 15 percent and the fiveyear average of 7 percent.

Corn planting continued to see good progress last week while it still continued to trail last year and the five-year average. As of Sunday, 69 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted compared to 89 percent last year and 85 percent for the five-year average. Last week 54 percent of the corn acreage had been planted. Corn emergence was reported at 40 percent, up from last week's 18 percent while below last year's 70 percent and the five year average of 68 percent. The condition of the emerged corn crop was rated 2 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

Farmers continue to plant soybeans. As of Sunday, 9 percent had been planted compared to 15 percent last year and 16 percent for the five-year average. Last week 5 percent had been planted.

The winter wheat crop was rated 4 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Some lodging was reported following the rain and winds. Some farmers have been applying fungicides to their small grains.

Hay crops were rated 3 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Only a few reports of alfalfa weevil have been received. As of Sunday, pasture condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.

As of Sunday, 2 percent of sorghum acreage had been planted.

Strawberry growers reported 51 percent of their berries as small,



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41 percent medium, and 8 percent as large.

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